



# **First Army Division East**

## **Recommended Reading List**

Senior NCOs, CW4-CW5, Field Grade Officers



### **Cobra II: The Inside Story of the Invasion and Occupation of Iraq by Michael Gordon and Bernard Trainor**

Cobra II is an extremely critical look at the war planning for the invasion of Iraq by Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld's Pentagon staff and its subsequent execution. Dazzled by the seemingly cheap success in Afghanistan and a fixed commitment on transforming the military into a lighter, leaner force, the high-level planners allowed false assumptions, faulty intelligence, personal politics and a lack of foresight undermine any rationale strategy for the endeavor, producing an unexpected outcome and sowing the seeds for future conflict.

### **The Challenge of Command by Roger H. Nye**

This is a unique book that emphasizes the attainment of military excellence through reading and field experience. Written to help men and women prepare for positions of command in the American Armed Forces, it is a product of the author's years of discussions with military commanders about their roles as decision-makers, moral standard bearers, and energizers of military organizations.

### **Team of Rivals by Doris Keams Goodwin**

The book is a biographical portrait of U.S. President Abraham Lincoln and some of the men who served with him in his Cabinet from 1861 to 1865. Three of his Cabinet members had previously run against Lincoln in the 1860 election: Edward Bates (Attorney General), Salmon Chase (Treasury), and William H. Seward (State). The book focuses on Lincoln's mostly successful attempts to reconcile conflicting personalities and political factions on the path to abolition and victory in the US Civil War.

### **Winning the Peace – The Marshall Plan by Nicolas Mills**

Politicians of every stripe frequently invoke the Marshall Plan in support of programs aimed at using American wealth to extend the nation's power and influence, solve intractable third-world economic problems, and combat world hunger and disease. Do any of these impassioned advocates understand why the Marshall Plan succeeded where so many subsequent aid plans have not? Historian Nicolaus Mills explores the Marshall Plan in all its dimensions to provide valuable lessons from the past about what America can and cannot do as a superpower.

### **Insurgency & Terrorism: From Revolution to Apocalypse (2<sup>nd</sup> edition) by Bard E. O'Neill**

O'Neill's framework presents competing possibilities for the nature of numerous groups, and clearly identifies problems with groups whose true goals may be hidden, ambiguous, conflicting, changing, or evolving. For example, he asks the reader to consider whether al Qaeda is apocalyptic, anarchic, or truly guided by a traditional Islamic vision? The approach gives practitioners a way to better understand groups and the threats they pose.





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### **America Alone: The End of the World As We Know It by Mark Steyn**

Mark Steyn's book is essentially a challenge to the *bien-pensants* among us: an insistence that we recognize an extraordinary threat and thus the possible need for extraordinary responses. He need not pose as if he were the only one with the courage to think in this way."

### **Islam: A Short History by Karen Armstrong**

This book is a quick but thoughtful introduction to Islam. Throughout the book, Armstrong traces what she sees as Islam's emphasis on right living over right belief. Armstrong is at her most passionate when discussing Islam in the modern world. She explains antagonisms between Iraqi Muslims and Syrian Muslims, and discusses the devastating consequences of modernization on the Islamic world.

### **Unholy War: Terror in the Name of Islam by John L. Esposito**

Esposito, a professor of religion and international affairs and director of the Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding at Georgetown University, methodically leads the reader through the complicated history of Islam. He explains the various conceptions of Jihad, or holy war, ranging from internal movements for community reform to the modern explosive threat to all things external to Islam. One of the more useful elements of this account is the author's review of the seminal thinkers of the Islamic world whose writings have given rise to the real-world events we have come to know all too well.

### **The World is Flat; A Brief History of the Twenty-first Century by Thomas L. Friedman**

Friedman explains how the flattening of the world happened at the dawn of the twenty-first century; what it means to countries, companies, communities, and individuals; and how governments and societies can, and must, adapt. The World is Flat is the timely and essential update on globalization, its successes and discontents, powerfully illuminated by one of our most respected journalists.

### **The Black Regulars, 1866-1898 by William A. Dobak**

This prize-winning book tells the story of the first generation of black soldiers in the Regular Army, covering who they were, why they enlisted, where they served, and what their living conditions were like. Beginning in the aftermath of the Civil War, their service in the American West paved the way for black participation in the Spanish-American War, two World Wars, and more recent conflicts. The story of these nineteenth-century trailblazers is an inspiration to all American fighting men.

### **Matthew B. Ridgeway – Soldier, Statesman, Scholar, Citizen by George C. Mitchell**

"Matthew B. Ridgeway devoted his life to the battle for the freedom of Democracy...he was content to make a difference and let his deeds do the talking."





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### **On Killing: The Psychological Cost of Learning to Kill in War and Society by Dave Grossman**

Beginning with S.L.A. Marshall's 1947 work, which indicated that possibly as few as 15 to 20 percent of individual riflemen actually fired their weapons at the enemy, Grossman examines the efforts of military training to overcome the innate hesitancy to kill through "operant conditioning" that will lead soldiers to fire reflexively. Although such training significantly increased fire rates in the Korean and Vietnam Wars, he warns that this conditioning has the potential for psychological backlash when soldiers return home. This is a very readable treatment of a complex subject that will be of interest to any military leader.

### **Battle Cry of Freedom: The Civil War Era by James McPherson**

Professor McPherson has written a brilliant account of the American Civil War-the war that made the country what it is today. He discusses the causes of the war, the military operations, the soldiers, the leaders, and the political, economic, and social aspects of life in the Union and the Confederacy before and during the war in clear, incisive detail. With many experts judging it the best one-volume history of the Civil War, it provides an excellent introduction to what is still one of the most significant wars fought by the American Army.

### **Enders Game by O. Scott Card**

Aliens have attacked earth twice and almost destroyed the human species. To make sure humans win the next encounter, the world government has taken to breeding military geniuses-and then training them in the arts of war.

### **Other Recommended Reading Lists**

#### **CGSC Deputy Commandant's Deploying Officer Reading List**

<http://www-cgsc.army.mil/carl/resources/biblio/deploylist.asp>

#### **Pre-Deployment Afghanistan Reading List**

<http://usacac.army.mil/CAC2/coin/repository/AFGReadingList.pdf>

#### **Center for Military History Recommended Professional Reading List**

[http://www.history.army.mil/html/reference/reading\\_list/list3.html](http://www.history.army.mil/html/reference/reading_list/list3.html)